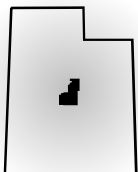


County Trends



Sanpete

December 2005

A Local Economic Perspective

Economic Stability. . . Are We There Yet?

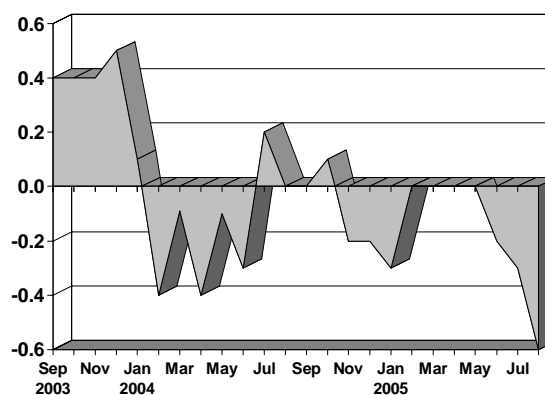
Sanpete County just can't seem to make its way to long-term employment expansion. The county's other economic indicators often find themselves in the same boat. For the most part, employment figures will improve for several months only to sink into job loss for a quarter or two. The good news? There's more growth than job loss. The bad news? Even months with job growth don't show particularly robust expansion.

Job Growth Edges Back

Overall, between the second quarters of 2004 and 2005, Sanpete County experienced nonfarm job growth of only 0.4 percent—representing the addition of a measly 26 jobs. Monthly figures provide a little more cause for optimism. While May showed a decrease in nonfarm employment, June's numbers had bounced back into the black.

There seems to be a contest for bragging rights between job-winning and job-losing industries in Sanpete County. Employment gains in manufacturing, transportation/warehousing, other services and government just barely managed to offset losses in retail trade professional/business services, and the leisure/hospitality industry. Slippage in leisure/hospitality employment—a proxy for tourism employ-

***Year-Over Percentage-Point
Change in Sanpete County
Unadjusted Unemployment Rate***

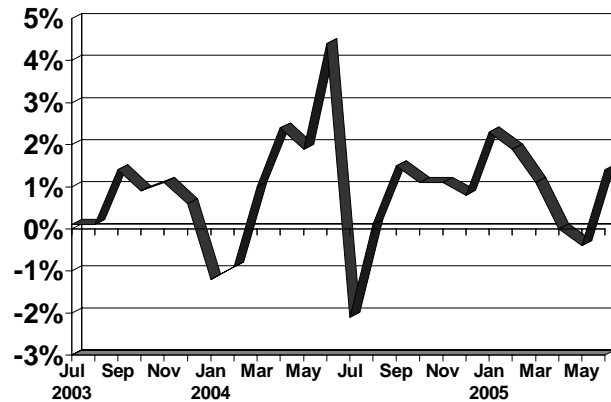


Source: Utah Department of Workforce Services.





Year-Over Change in Sanpete County Employment



Source: Utah Department of Workforce Services.

To the Point

Sanpete County's employment numbers took a brief dip during the middle part of the second quarter. There are almost equal numbers of industries on both the job-losing and job-gaining sides. In addition, construction activity lost ground. Unemployment does appear to have moderated from last year's level. However, a strong increase in sales provided the best economic news.

ment—has been a common theme among many of Utah's smaller counties in the southwest and central part of the state.

The Rate

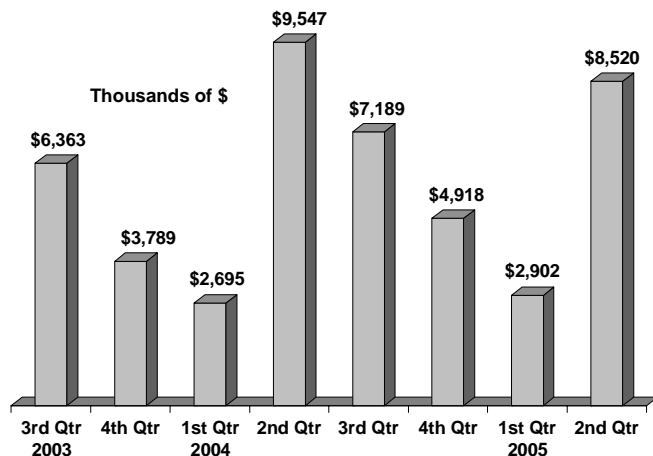
Seasonally adjusted 2005 unemployment rates are not yet available for Utah's counties. However, it is possible to offset seasonality in a different way. Comparing the unemployment rate from one year to the rate for the same month in the previous year also tends to reduce the effects of seasonality. While not perfect, this calculation at least lets us know whether joblessness has decreased or increased in a particular area over the past 12 months.

Sanpete County's unemployment rate proved almost the mirror image of job growth. In general, unemployment is decreasing, but a few increasing months spoil the entire picture. In August 2005, Sanpete County's unadjusted unemployment rate measured six-tenths of a percentage point below the year-ago figure.

Two Construction Steps Forward, One Step Back

Sanpete County's construction industry departed from the growth trend of the previous three quarters. In comparison to second quarter 2004 figures, construction values have dropped by about 11 percent.

Total Sanpete County Approved Construction Values



Source: Utah Bureau of Economic & Business Research.

With the exception of residential construction values, the quarter was pretty much a bust for all categories. New nonresidential, additions/alterations/repairs, and the number of new home permits issued all lost ground.

Of course, this is a volatile industry, but even year-to-date numbers show Sanpete County in the red.

Sales Soar

With a 10-percent year-over increase, Sanpete County's second quarter 2005 gross taxable sales seem to reign as economic indicator champion. The service industry—especially auto/miscellaneous repair industry—really helped boost Sanpete County sales. Retail trade sales proved healthy but not in the 30-percent league of services sales.

Keep On Keeping On

While Sanpete County has yet to obtain a sustained period of economic expansion, its performance in the past two years certainly outshines its track record in the more distant past. The county shows much potential and should be able to improve its economic situation in the months ahead.

Lecia Parks Langston, Regional Economist
lecialangston@utah.gov, 435-688-3115



Quick Facts

Aug 2005-Percentage Point Change from Previous Year

Unadjusted Unemployment Rate

Sanpete County	-0.6
Utah	-0.8
U.S.	-0.5

Jun 2005 Change from Previous Year

Job Growth

Sanpete County	1.4%
Utah	3.6%
U.S.	1.8%

2nd Qtr 2005 Change from Previous Year

Construction Values

Sanpete County	-10.8%
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2nd Qtr 2005 Change from Previous Year

Sales

Sanpete County	9.9%
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Source: Utah Dept of Workforce Services,
Bureau of Labor Statistics,
Utah Tax Commission,
Bureau of Econ & Business Research.

For more economic information about Sanpete County see:
<http://jobs.utah.gov/wi/regions/county.asp>

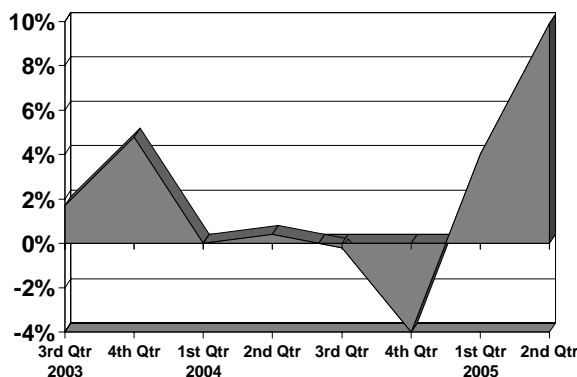
State of Utah

Utah Department of Workforce Services

140 East 300 South
PO Box 45249
Salt Lake City, UT 84145-0249

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Year-Over Change in Sanpete County Gross Taxable Sales



Source: Utah Tax Commission.

The mission of the Utah Department of Workforce Services is to provide quality, accessible, and comprehensive employment-related and supportive services responsive to the needs of employers, job seekers, and the community.

What's Up?

- The Gunnison City Council voted to approve the \$632,000 Sanpitch River Walkway, including extra improvements in the area where 200 East intersects the river.

The Sanpete Messenger

For more economic events, see:

<http://jobs.utah.gov/wi/Regions/western/sanpete/sanpeteee.pdf>



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Equal Opportunity Employment Program

Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. Call (801) 526-9240. Individuals with speech and/or hearing impairments may call the state relay at 1-800-346-4128

